



Timely Tidings

NEWSLETTER OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1997

Family Literacy Survey Results

In May 1996, 194 agencies received Family Literacy grants through the Department of Education 321 funds. These grants were intended to encourage the infusion of family literacy concepts within adult basic education and English as a Second Language (ESL) instructional programs. Agencies receiving the grants were required to attend *Introducing Family Literacy to Your Instructional Staff* workshops presented by the Staff Development Institute (SDI) in September, 1996.

SDI disseminated a survey to the 194 agencies to determine what Family Literacy activities were implemented after training. Questions focused on:

- how the agency supported implementation
- training re-created for the agency staff by the workshop participants
- evaluation activities that occurred as the agency implemented the training.

The results of the survey were overwhelmingly positive. Of the 107 responses SDI received, all but one workshop participant re-created the information provided at the training to at least one other person at their agency.

Dynamic examples of how the agency supported classroom implementation using children's books included:

- Teachers in the program observed each other's classes and shared observations/suggestions
- A series of staff meetings for teachers was held to share lesson plans, techniques and activities appropriate for the various books
- Adult classes joined with elementary classes to present literacy lessons to children
- For implementation support the trained staff did a demo for mentors while the mentors observed and provided support.
- The materials and training were regularly mentioned in monthly newsletters to staff, as well as by flyers and informal reminders. Second and third reminders always result in renewed awareness and interest.
- Demonstrations of the most effective use of each book. Work sheets were developed for each book.

Evaluation of the family literacy activities with children's books was done on an informal basis by a large number of respondents. Activities that other agencies can duplicate were described by survey participants and include:

- Track the number of times each time a book was checked out
- Interview parents regarding what they did with children
- Anecdotal evidence (e.g. how often do you read to your children?—pre and post)
- Comparison of retention rate between Family Literacy ESL and other multi-level classes offered through Adult Education. (Students in Family Literacy ESL are more likely to remain in class for full year)
- Survey ESL students at various sites. (Indicators/results showed increase in language acquisition, increase in attending local libraries, and increased use of Family Literacy in their homes as a result of our program.)
- Attendance comparison was made for the days the books were used

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Staff Development Institute
9738 Lincoln Village Drive
Sacramento, CA 95827-3399

(916) 228-2640 • (800) 488-1788
Fax (916) 228-2676
Email: sdi@otan.dni.us
www.otan.dni.us/webfarm/sdi

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EVENT CALENDAR

1/7–1/8/98

Fiscal Management in Adult Education: Budgeting, Accounting, Monitoring, Grant Writing and Entrepreneurialism

1/8/98

SCANS: Common Sense for the 21st Century; Baldwin Park

1/9/98

SCANS: Common Sense for the 21st Century; Sweetwater

1/13/98

SCANS: Common Sense for the 21st Century; Sacramento

1/14–1/15/98

Quality Leadership for New and Aspiring Adult Education Administrators

1/16/98

SCANS: Common Sense for the 21st Century; Sacramento

1/22/98

SCANS: Common Sense for the 21st Century; MAEP

1/29/98

SCANS: Common Sense for the 21st Century; MAEP

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- A feedback sheet is requested from teachers who, in turn, request feedback sheets from students

The majority of the respondents plan to expand the agency Family Literacy effort by training more teachers and tutors, infusing the use of children's books in other program areas or additional sites, and by purchasing more children's books.

Scholarship Recipients Announced

The Staff Development Institute is pleased to announce the awarding of eight scholarships in round one of the California Department of Education Scholarship Program for Adult School Administrators. These recipients are currently seeking either the Tier 1 or Tier 2 Administrative Services Credential with the intent of maintaining a career in adult school administration.

Each recipient will undertake a leadership project relevant to adult education. These projects will be presented at future adult education conferences.

The eight recipients are:

Lynn Parr Bartlett: San Juan USD Adult Education

Brenda Bell: Burbank USD, Burbank Adult School

Cynthia Diaz: Los Angeles USD, Van Nuys Community Adult School

Mary Ketza: San Bernardino Adult School

Karen Kile-Bautista: Irvine USD, Irvine Adult School

Eduardo Reyes: Sweetwater UHSD, Chula Vista Adult School

Tim Taylor: Elk Grove USD

Carol Waxman: Petaluma Adult School

A second submission of applications is currently being evaluated. See the January newsletter for the names of these recipients.

SDI Schedules Additional SCANS Workshops in Northern California

Due to the overwhelming response to the *SCANS: Common Sense for the 21st Century* workshops in Northern California, SDI has scheduled additional workshops for the months of January and February. This important presentation is designed for basic education, ESL, adult secondary and GED instructors along with their resource staff to develop strategies that teach and practice SCANS competencies. Interested educators can contact their local Regional Resource Center or SDI for more information. With the high demand, registration is necessary in order to attend. Don't miss this opportunity.

Internet Links

Take a look at these sites for relevant information related to welfare reform.

The California Department of Social Services (www.dss.cahwnet.gov) web site contains both CalWORKs fact sheets and the CalWORKs All County Letters.

The Internet Guide to California's Legislature, a project of the California Voter Foundation, (www.calvoter.org/legguide/) provides information for tracking current legislation.

Programs of Excellence Application Deadline Approaching

Programs of Excellence applications for 1997-98 were made available to adult agencies in September through SDI. By this time agencies interested in applying should be in the process of completing the application. From the great interest and success of last year's applicants, we expect to see more submissions with exciting programs from around the state.

For those agencies that are new to the process please keep in mind that the application should focus on entire programs within your agency. The applications will be merited on the demonstration of how agencies "go the extra mile" in their program, are attuned to and devise a plan for the special needs of their learners, and the inclusion of accountability in their program planning. Mark your calendars for the **application deadline of January 16, 1998.**

Professional Development Workshops

Staff development workshops available through the Staff Development Institute combine up-to-date background information and hands-on practice to enable educators to bring to their jobs sharper skills and renewed enthusiasm.

Workshops developed under the former ESL Teacher Institute and the Adult Literacy Instructor's Institute are available. Model Standards implementation for ESL, adult basic education and high school completion can be provided. Technology in the Classroom, ESL-Citizenship, SCANS Implementation, and a distance learning module are training areas for SDI.

A description of all the workshops can be found on SDI's web site (www.otan.dni.us/webfarm/sdi) or you can call for a catalog (800) 488-1788.

Workshops can be offered at a local site, coordinated by a consortium of literacy providers, or coordinated with your local Regional Resource Center (see side bar).

Expenses are minimal and include only the cost of the participant manuals and the trainer's honorarium and travel.

To arrange for a workshop call SDI at (800) 488-1788 or call your Regional Resource Center.

Coming Soon! Teacher Training Online

Adult educators are constantly seeking better ways to serve learners as they reach for their lifelong learning goals as workers, community members and family members. Professional development is the key. And now, that professional development instruction is available on the Internet.

Teacher Training Online is a web-based professional development training system designed to provide self-directed, self-paced instruction for adult educators and administrators. Currently in pilot testing, Teacher Training Online will be provided for adult educators who are seeking ways to serve adult learners.

Teacher Training Online will deliver instructional content using pre- and post-assessment, sound, and video. Ease of use and "anytime accessibility" will make TTO an ideal delivery system for professional development.

Check the SDI website (www.otan.dni.us/webfarm/sdi) for the latest news on TTO.

REGIONS

Baldwin Park

13307 Francisquito
Baldwin Park, CA 91706
(818) 338-8355/337-8018

Los Angeles

1510 Cambria St.
Los Angeles, CA 90017
(213) 483-5256/483-8689

MAEP (San Jose)

760 Hillsdale Ave., Room 1
San Jose, CA 95136
(408) 723-6450

Merced

50 East 20th St.
P.O. Box 3707
Merced, CA 95344-3707
(209) 385-6524

Northern California (Willows)

420 East Laurel, #B
Willows, CA 95988
(530) 934-9656

Rancho Santiago (Santa Ana)

2900 W. Edinger
Santa Ana, CA 92704
(714) 564-5100

Sacramento

331 J Street, Suite 180
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 557-1150

Sweetwater (San Diego)

458 Moss St.
Chula Vista, CA 91911-2896
(619) 691-5624/691-5791

From the Staff Development Institute...

Season's Greetings

John Burge • Silvia Holloway • Venice Jenkins • John Merris-Coots • Joan Polster • Valerie Powell • Phil Soltesz



Staff Development Institute

9738 Lincoln Village Drive
Sacramento, CA 95827-3399

TIME DATED MATERIAL. PLEASE DO NOT DELAY.

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This publication is funded in whole or in part by the California Department of Education, Adult Education, Educational Options and Safe Schools Division through Federal Grant P.L.100-297 Section 353. However, the opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the position or policy of the Department. Trainings are conducted under the auspices of the Staff Development Institute and the State Literary Resource Centers.